REMARKS

Claim 1 was pending in the Application. After entry of this amendment, Claims 2-18 are pending. Claims 2-18 were added and then Claim 1 was canceled without Prejudice. Applicants submit this Amendment in order to further clarify the invention described and claimed, without regard to any prior art.

Applicant submits that the Claims as amended are supported by the application as filed and do not add new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner precisely identify teachings or suggestions in the prior art that would preclude patentability of the pending claims in the event that the Examiner is not in a position to allow the claims now pending.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**". Attached hereto is a clean version of the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**PENDING CLAIMS**".

The Application being in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-70543-2/RMA/KRG).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/03

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(1110592)

2   1.   (Canceled)

3   2.   (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any

4 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

5   booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer

6 hardware box of the computer;

7   then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer

8 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot

9 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main

10 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for

11 repair; and

12   then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the

13 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the

14 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during

15 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the

16 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of

17 the computer.

18

19   3.   (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software further

20 comprises:

21   copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot

22 device.

23

24   4.   (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further

25 comprises:

26   copying any of application, operating-system and repair-process software.

27

28   5.   (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further

29 comprises:

30   copying any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output

31 system (BIOS).

32

33   6.   (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of repairing software further

34 comprises:

1   copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.

2

3   7.   (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software further
4   comprises:
5   copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other than the
6   first boot device onto the first boot device.

7

8   8.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of repairing comprises:
9   copying one of template, backup and archive software from the second boot device
10   onto the first boot device.

11

12   9.   (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
13   device comprises:
14   switching the second boot device, thereby making the second boot device bootable.

15

16   10.   (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of switching comprises:
17   generating the signal indicating a need for repair.

18

19   11.   (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
20   device comprises:
21   logically switching the second boot device.

22

23   12.   (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
24   device comprises:
25   physically switching the second boot device.

26

27   13.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching
28   comprises:
29   altering identification jumpers of a data storage device to be switched.

30

31   14.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching
32   comprises:
33   turning on or off the power to a data storage device to be switched.

34

1   15.   (New) A computer system comprising:

2   a communication device for communicating over a communications link to a second

3   computer system,

4   a port for communicatively coupling said computer system and said communication

5   device over a bus having a plurality of data lines; and

6   a switch coupled within said data line selected from said plurality of data lines for

7   enabling and disabling said communication device.

8

9   16.   (New) The computer system of claim 15 wherein said communication device

10   is a network interface card disposed within a main computer hardware box and said switch is

11   affixed to said network interface card.

12

13   17.   (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any

14   time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

15   booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer

16   hardware box of the computer;

17   then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer

18   during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot

19   device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main

20   computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for

21   repair; and

22   then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the

23   second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the

24   computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during

25   repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the

26   computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of

27   the computer.

28

29   18.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein:

30   the step of repairing software further comprises:

31   (i) copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot

32   device, and the step of copying software further comprises copying any of application,

33   operating-system and repair-process software, wherein such copying may include copying

34   any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output system (BIOS);

1   (ii) copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device, and

2   either or both of copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other

3   than the first boot device onto the first boot device and copying one of template, backup and

4   archive software from the second boot device onto the first boot device;

5   the step of booting from a second boot device comprises switching the second boot

6   device, thereby making the second boot device bootable, and the step of switching comprises

7   generating the signal indicating a need for repair;

8   the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch different from

9   an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer

10   hardware box of the computer;

11   the step of automatically repairing software comprises automatically repairing

12   software on the first boot device without further direction from the user including repairing

13   software on the first boot device according to preset preferences; the repairing according to

14   preset preferences includes repairing according to whether to recover data, to run a virus

15   check, to reformat the first boot device, to revert to a backup, to run diagnostics;

16   the step of repairing software further includes resetting parameters in a persistent

17   memory; and then copying software onto the first boot device;

18   wherein before the step of booting from the second boot device, installing software

19   onto the second boot device, the step of installing software onto the second boot device

20   comprises one procedure from the following set of procedures: installing software onto the

21   second boot device, copying installed software onto the second boot device copying

22   installation software onto the second boot device, and writing onto the second boot device a

23   version of an operating environment running as a result of the boot from the first boot device.

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